**Great is the Mystery of Godliness**

*1 Timothy 3:16*

Introduction

1. The doctrine of Christ which is a message of salvation to the world was once held in secret until God deemed it appropriate time to reveal it to the world (**cf. 2 Corinthians 6:1-2** – the time was prophesied about in Isaiah, the time had come.)
2. This mystery is one of **great importance**. It is an extraordinary and infallible plan conceived by an infallible Being **(cf. Ephesians 3:8-13).**

* **It was a plan that saved both Jew and Gentile and left no one out. It was a plan that everyone could follow and be successful in if they wanted to. To which Paul expressed his amazement (cf. Romans 11:33-36).**

1. ***Paul discusses the truth of the gospel (the Mystery) in his letter to Timothy. He gives a concise description of this great mystery, and God’s greatness and love for the world is seen in it. 🡪***
2. ***“God was manifested in the flesh”***

* The fall of man **(cf. Romans 3:23)** posed a troubling and important question: how would man be redeemed?
* The Old Testament illustrated the payment for sins by sacrifices. Yet these weren’t sufficient for the job **(cf. Hebrews 10:1-4).**
* Remission of sins wasn’t possible without blood **(cf. Hebrews 9:22).**
* The blood of Christ – God in the flesh, proved sufficient **(cf. Hebrews 9:13-15).**
* John said***, “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).***
* It was necessary for Christ to perform such a noble service **(cf. Hebrews 2:10, 14-15).**

1. ***“Justified in the spirit”***

* Whether this “spirit” refers to His personal spirit or the Holy Spirit is a matter of dispute. However, either one is scriptural and makes a legitimate point.
* **If personal spirit – Hebrews 4:14-16** – He remained without sin although tempted – which gives us help as those who are tempted.
  + ***He exhibited unwavering faithfulness to God even in the most dire situations proving He was in fact perfect Deity.***
* **If Holy Spirit – Romans 1:1-4 – He was raised from the dead by the power of the HS and was justified by such – He truly was God’s son.**
  + **Romans 8:9-11 – By that same power we have the hope of a resurrection to life.**

1. ***“Seen by angels”***

* This plan was indeed heavenly. It attracted the attention of heavenly beings **(cf. 1 Peter 1:10-12**).
  + ***That which those angels desired to know more about was given for us to know and enjoy fully!***
  + They anticipated the fulfillment of this plan, being involved in it by aiding Christ.
    - Announced His birth (cf. Luke 2:8-14).
    - Ministered to Him after His temptation (cf. Matthew 4:11).
    - Strengthened Him in the garden of Gethsemane (cf. Luke 22:43).

1. ***“Preached among the Gentiles”***

* **Genesis 12:3** – God’s promise was to bless the entire world (implying Jew and Gentile).
  + **The Gentiles were not a people of God but now can be**! – **1 Peter 2:9-10**
  + **This is accomplished in Christ’s death – Ephesians 2:14-18**
* ***How great is our God that He shows no partiality, and has developed a plan sufficient to offer salvation to ALL men!***

1. ***“Believed on in the world”***

* Christ lived a humble life. He was not one of earthly kingship and majesty, but appeared as one who had ***“no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him” (Isaiah 53:2).***
* Yet the foolishness of His message brings many to salvation! (**cf. 1 Corinthians 1:26-31)**.
  + In summary, God’s plan was not thwarted, His purpose was not overthrown – ***“I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You” (Job 42:2)***.
  + **The eternal kingdom, and salvation to its citizens was accomplished and will be accomplished! – Why? Because He was *“believed on in the world.”***

1. ***“Received up in glory”***

* **Acts 1:9-11** – Jesus ascended to heaven to reign in glory, and has promised to return.
* At His return we shall be changed to be like He is in glory – **1 John 3:2; Colossians 3:4**
  + This is promised to those whose life is Christ.
  + We must live for Him, and look for Him to be found in Him when He comes (**cf. 2 Peter 3:13-14**).

**Conclusion**

1. Great indeed is the mystery of godliness. Yet it is a mystery no longer, but a revealed truth.
2. You can obey that truth and receive the salvation of your soul! Won’t you do so?